THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Presently there are 17627 post offices in Uttar Pradesh of which 2540 are Departmental Post Offices. Out of these Departmental Post Offices, 2253 are being operated from rented accommodation.

(b) During 2002-2003, it is targeted to open 19 post offices in Uttar Pradesh. Post offices are opened subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

Monthly rental of Thapakhera Exchange

†2322. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly rental for Ambedkar Gram Thapakhera rural telephone exchange having the capacity of 1,000 to 3,000 lines;

(b) the basis for declaring the monthly rental of the exchange having the capacity of 1000 to 29,999 lines as Rs. 120 though in the Directory, it is Rs. 100;

(c) the basis for charging a monthly rental of Rs. 250 on Exchange system having the capacity of 100000 and more lines, though its monthly rent has been given Rs. 210 in the Directory; and

(d) whether the existing charge is based on the rural and urban classification and exchange capacity and if not, on what basis the monthly rental of Rs. 120/- has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is no telephone exchange in Ambedkar Gram Thapakhera. This village is being served from the Delta Exchange, which is situated in Ghaziabad, SDCA with an equipped capacity of more than 1 lakh lines. Hence, rental for telephones in Thapakhera is applicable to a rural area parented to an urban exchange (Delta) with more than 1 lakh lines in equipped capacity. The following rental and tariff is charged from subscribers of the village Thapakhera.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rental	Rs. 210/-p.m.
Registration charges	Rs. 500/-
Installation charges	Rs. 800/-
Free Calls	125 per month
Units call charges	
126—225	0.60 per call
226—250	0.80 per call
251—500	1.00 per call
Above 500	1.20 per call

(b) The information available in the Directory is old, *i.e.* rental applicable for the period 1.5.99 to 31.1.2001 for an exchange system of over 1000 and less than 30,000 lines. At that time, the rental was Rs. 120/- p.m. and Rs. 100/- p.m. for urban high calling, and rural & low calling urban subscribers, respectively.

(c) The monthly rental for an exchange capacity of more than 1 lakh lines was revised *w.e.f.* 1/2/2001 from Rs. 180/- to Rs. 210/- for rural subscribers, and from Rs. 180/- to Rs. 250/- for low calling urban subscribers, at par with other urban subscribers. This is as per the rural/ urban classification.

(d) According to Census Report of 2001, village Thapakhera has been declared under rural, and as per the tariff applicable, rental is being charged at Rs. 210/- per month which is based on the rural and urban classification and exchange capacity of more than one lakh lines.

Telephone facilities in Manipur

2323. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers as on date in Manipur;

(b) the telephone subscribers in waiting list;

(c) the action taken to clear the waitlisted applicants; and

(d) the plan to expand telephone service in the rural and hilly districts?